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CONSIDERATIONS

ON THE

Breed and Management

OF

HORSES,

INTERSPERSED

With ſome Remarks and Calculations on the Exportation and Importation of Corn, and the Importance of an improved Cultivation.

Addreſſed to the KING.

In time of public danger it is every man's duty to withdraw his thoughts in ſome meaſure from his private intereſt, and employ part of his time for the general welfare.

JOHNSON.

LONDON:

Printed for W. DAVIS, in Piccadilly; and J. WILKIE, in St. Paul's Church-Yard.

1772

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To the KING.

Gracious Sovereign,

MY preſumption in thus approaching your Majeſty, will, I hope, be in ſome meaſure excuſed, as I do it in favour of an animal, which is the boaſt and honour of this Iſland: Our breed of horſes has always been conſidered of conſequence to the ſafety and welfare of the kingdom; our anceſtors, from time to time, thought the ſubject

ject worthy their moſt ſerious deliberations, and paſſed many wholeſome laws to prevent their degeneracy.

It is at this day become an object of encreaſed magnitude, as the number of horſes now kept exceed thoſe uſed heretofore.---The total neglect of all former regulations for the breed, the manifeſt degeneracy, the abuſe and wanton deſtruction of horſes, peculiar to modern times, are evils which affect the deareſt intereſts of your kingdom, the intereſts of population, of agriculture

agriculture, and of commerce. From your Majeſty's paternal interference *only* can effectual reformation be expected; I therefore venture, with all duty and humility, to offer to your Majeſty the following conſiderations, fully convinced of your Majeſty's wiſdom and humanity in ſupport of any meaſures that may tend to the happineſs and benefit of your people.

That the horſe may long contribute to your Majeſty's health and amuſement, and that you may ride him at a very remote

period,

period, with the additional pleaſure and ſatisfaction of having reſcued his race from the hands of ignorance and barbariſm, and of having brought him to a degree of perfection unknown to former times, is the ſincere wiſh of,

Your Majeſty's

Moſt dutiful, moſt loyal,

Moſt obedient, and

Moſt devoted Servant,

London, Feb. 28, 1778.

The AUTHOR.

ERRATA.

Page 2, *line* 11, *for* and with rage, *read* and rage.
18, *line* 12, *for* keep, *read* want.
38, *line* 10, *for* pieces, *read* piece.
57, *line* 9, *for* expand, *read* expands.
68, *line* 16, *for* ſtinted, *read* ſtunted.
70, *line* 11, *for* affected, *read* effected.
89, *line* 4, *for* ſowings, *read* hoeings.
101, *line* 9, *for* them, *read* him.
104, *line* 8, *for* Roxback, *read* Roſbach.

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CONSIDERATIONS

BREED and MANAGEMENT

OF

HORSES.

THE various noble qualities of the Horſe are ſo well known, and ſo generally acknowledged, that it is unneceſſary to comment on them*. The ſuperior

* That thoſe who diſapprove the maxims, which are with all deference recommended in theſe pages, may meet with ſomething that cannot fail to pleaſe, I preſent the reader with the admired panegyric on the Horſe in the book of Job, and alſo that in Homer.—"Haſt thou given "the Horſe ſtrength, haſt thou cloathed his neck "with

ſuperior excellency of the Engliſh Horſe is one of the bleſſings with which pro-

" with thunder—canſt thou make him afraid as
" a graſshopper; the glory of his noſtrils is ter-
" rible.—He paweth in the valley, and rejoiceth
" in his ſtrength :—He goeth on to meet the armed
" man :—He mocketh at fear, and is not affright-
" ed; neither turneth his back from the ſword :—
" The quiver rattleth againſt him, the glittering
" ſpear and the ſhield :—He ſwalloweth the
" ground with fierceneſs and with rage; neither
" believeth he that it is the ſound of the trumpet:
" —He ſaith among the trumpets, Ha, ha, and
" he ſmelleth the battle afar off :—The thunder
" of the captains, and the ſhoutings."

Freed from his keeper, thus, with broken reins,
The wanton courſer prances o'er the plains;
Or in the pride of youth o'erleaps the mounds,
And ſnuffs the females in forbidden grounds;
Or ſeeks his watring in the well-known flood,
To quench his thirſt, and cool his fiery blood:
He ſwims luxuriant in the liquid plain,
And o'er his ſhoulders flows his waving mane:
He ne'ighs, he ſnorts, he bears his head on high,
Before his ample cheſt the frothy waters fly.

POPE

vidence

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vidence has favoured this iſland. Repeated experiment has convinced thoſe nations, who have attempted to introtroduce our breed, that, like our dogs, they degenerate in foreign climes. It behoves us, therefore, in ſupport of our character for vigilance and wiſdom, to avail ourſelves in the fulleſt extent of ſuch a natural advantage. It muſt, however, excite aſtoniſhment, that the conduct of this country has been far otherwiſe. The breed of an animal, which might be commercially beneficial to us, and an object of revenue, has been of late totally neglected; we go on in the utmoſt extravagance, and moſt extreme folly, in the uſe and management of him. The introduction of our ſtrongeſt and beſt ſaddle horſes into carriages, and the furious driving in conſequence of turnpike roads, ſo very different from the ſober jog of the laſt century, together with the exportation of

them, encreaſe their numbers ſo exceedingly, that it is become an object of conſiderable national importance; beſides, the price of horſes is doubled, and even at this advance, it is difficult to procure good ones, and after all, the chance of foundneſs is much againſt us: Notwithſtanding the truth of theſe aſſertions, we may juſtly complain, that the evil is every day encreaſing.

Mr. Moore, who inveighs with but too much juſtice againſt the inordinate uſe and waſte of horſes, as the cauſe of the ſcarcity and dearneſs of proviſions, and high price of labour, gives the following calculations:---"When we were threatened with a Spaniſh invaſion in the year 1588, the miniſters of our glorious Elizabeth ordered a general ſurvey of the horſes throughout the kingdom, and found only 50,000 fit for ſervice.

"In

"In the year 1745, when the rebels were at Derby, no more than 20,000 horſes, upon a like ſurvey, could be found in London, Weſtminſter, and Southwark." He tells us, "That now 88,250 are kept for the uſe of pleaſure carriages *only*; add to this, the numbers kept for different uſes, the army, racing, and ſaddle, the quantity is enormous; within the bills of mortality only, nearly 15,000 quarters of oats are expended weekly, beſides beans and hay. A horſe, when at graſs, is reckoned equal to two oxen or cows, or ten ſheep, and conſumes annually the produce of four acres of land. Suppoſe, for inſtance, that every acre of land throughout the kingdom, yields a load and a quarter, or 45 truſſes of hay; or, if ſown with oats, furniſhes four quarters and an half, or 36 buſhels, which is the very utmoſt; now, if one truſs of hay will poorly ſerve a

horſe

a horſe three days, near two acres and three quarters, are required for his ſubſiſtence yearly; and, if one buſhel of oats, in the ſame manner, is a poor weekly allowance for a horſe, one acre and a half, will be inadequate to his proviſion in this article for a year." He alſo tells us, " that nearly half the produce of this kingdom is conſumed by horſes, inſtead of being appropriated to the ſubſiſtence of more profitable animals, or the mitigation of human diſtreſs.---Let us take notice of the deſtructive practice of exporting horſes: If we export ſixty five-year-olds, we muſt keep brood mares, and a riſing ſtock, that together will at leaſt amount to 445, and theſe will require the produce of 1112 acres of land for their yearly ſubſiſtence, if we allow each horſe no more than two acres and an half. I apprehend leſs cannot do, for although they are chiefly young, they

they are in general put into the beſt paſtures, eſpecially the mares and colts*; many of them alſo have plenty of corn: ---Upon this average, I mean to include the land together throughout the kingdom good and bad, that is under a ſtate of cultivation.---Suppoſe the breeder ſhould ſell theſe horſes, one with another for twenty pounds, twelve hundred pounds will be brought into the kingdom, or rather we ſhall have credit upon our exports, beſides the

* Suppoſe 95 mares ſhould bring 85 foals, and that five ſhould die yearly, then we ſhall have

95 mares
80 colts
75 two-year-olds
70 three
65 four
60 five-year-olds for ſale

445 riſing ſtock.—To ſave the fraction I ſhall, in future, take the breeding ſtock at 500, inſtead of 445.

duty

duty of five ſhillings a horſe, which together will amount to 12151.*"

But what muſt excite our indignation, and ſhould occaſion an univerſal alarm, we have imported of late years upwards of 500,000 quarters of oats per annum, and alſo a quantity of wheat, which together amounted to a ſum conſiderably more than a million ſterling:---A melancholy contraſt this to the practice of former times; for on an average of 39 years to 1765, we annually exported 598,484 quarters of grain; and on an average of 19 years, from 1746 to 1765, 729,061 quarters ſeven buſhels per annum. In the year

* Mr. Moore tells us, that one innkeeper is concerned in ſtage-coaches which employ one thouſand horſes, laſting on an average four years; to ſupport this, and keep up their number, will require the produce of 10,672 acres of land.

1750,

1750, the exportation was 1,500,220* quarters; and we have no reaſon to doubt finding a market for any exceſs in our crops, in caſe of an improved cultivation, if we conſider that there has been on an average of 25 years, exported from Poland, Dantzick, the North, and Holland, 7,350,000 ſetiers, or 3,981,250 quarters; and from Sicily, Barbary, and Archipelago, 1,630,000 ſetiers, or 882,916 quarters, beſides great quantities from America.——To complete this diſgraceful and pernicious

* Exported in the year 1750;

Barley - - -	224,500
Malt - - - -	220,503
Oatmeal - - -	8,566
Rye - - - -	99,049
Wheat - - -	947,602
	1,500,220

In this, and the like calculations, I have followed a publication of 1765, entitled, TRACTS ON THE CORN TRADE.

impor-

importation, it is made in foreign bottoms, inſtead of employing and forming vaſt numbers of ſailors by an exportation, the navigation of which is always healthy and frugal.

Though this diſeaſe having, in a great meaſure, its ſource in the luxury and extravagance of the times, is very inveterate, let us not, however, deſpair of a remedy: Let us hope that a few imperfect hints may produce a thorough inveſtigation, and by means of the Royal Countenance, effect reformations eſſentially advantageous to the public.

Reſpecting our breed of horſes then, the ſubſtance of what I have to offer, is ſimply to breed from *good and ſtrong horſes and mares*, taking eſpecial care that they are properly croſſed: But as it is impoſſible to effect our reforma-

tion

tion on the ſide of the mares, for men will breed from ſuch as they have, or from ſuch as their judgement or whim ſhall prefer, I REST MY IMPROVEMENT ON STALLIONS ONLY: That *they* are, *in general*, injudiciouſly choſen, I am convinced from attentive obſervation: In a racer, his *general excellence* does by no means govern the choice; *ſpeed* is the conſideration to which every other gives way: The ſtrong horſe moſt frequently runs to diſadvantage; It is now become the practice to train *ſo very young*, and to carry mere trifling weights*, and inſtead of heats, which require ſtrength and conſtitution, *the conteſts now are* chiefly in matches and ſweepſtakes,—a ſingle ſpirt; ſo that though ſome years back, the breed of racers

* Two-years-old colts, carry from ſix ſtone to ſix ſtone and an half.

ſup-

ſupplied vaſt numbers of ſtrong hunters to ſuch as would give good prices, that is not the caſe now. The ſtuds at Newmarket conſiſt of ſuch *weeds*, that a perſon riding 14 ſtone, may ſearch in vain without ſeeing ONE able to carry him; indeed it ſhould ſeem there are in the whole kingdom very few *now* produced in a year, maſters of 12 ſtone for the king's plates. It is certain, that the moſt valuable horſes, the moſt robuſt in ſize, and conſtitution, the beſt general goers, *are not the ſtallions ſelected by the gentlemen of the turf to breed from.* On the contrary, the very modern cuſtom of running two-year-olds, is a reaſon why it is *better* to breed little horſes in *preference* to large and ſtrong ones, for the purpoſe of racing.

Such as are above 15 hands, grow 'till five years old, are exceedingly immature

mature and awkward at two and three, and by no means ſo likely to run well at this early age, as thoſe, which from the ſize and ſort of their ſire and dam, may be expected to be about 14 hands, the height to which nine-tenths of our racers have dwindled.—I have often known a great ſtrong horſe exhibit every ſign of *ripiſm*, at four years old, and (not meeting with abuſe) grow into form, and prove an excellent one at ſix; and therefore, conclude that little horſes are fit for the fatigues of training and racing a year or two ſooner than the more valuable ſtrong ſort, of courſe the propagation of the generally uſeful ſort of fine ſtrong high bred horſes, is poſitively diſcouraged by the preſent practice of racing.

This degeneracy in racers becomes univerſally fatal, for among them are the generality of *nag ſtallions* choſen; it

it being neceſſary that hunters ſhould be well bred on one ſide at leaſt, as hounds are now trained much fleeter than formerly. I will not call in queſtion the practice of the northern breeders, where the traffic in horſes is the chief object of the farmer's attention; I will grant that *they* are tolerably ſelect in the choice of ſire and dam, and that their management is the beſt; they rear their ſtock with the greateſt care and œconomy, make them earn ſomething at plough, and ſell them at enormous prices. The practice of the ſouthern and weſtern parts of the kingdom, where the breed of horſes is not an object of ſo much attention, and which, by way of diſtinction, I will call the PROMISCUOUS BREED, is what is principally to be conſidered.

That there are in theſe countries, many gentlemen, who have the very

beſt

beſt ſtallions; that many of them are ſuch as we ſhould ſelect, I do not deny; but argue on the infamous choice and ill-management of the *general run* of country ſtallions, to which thoſe gentlemen or others muſt reſort, who are incited by different reaſons to breed colts. This *promiſcuous breed*, are the moſt numerous and uſeful, not ſpoiled like the racer, by pampering or early training, they have a greater chance to arrive at perfection.

But, alas, the jockey of a diſtrict, the genius who owns and conducts the generality of country ſtallions, very ſeldom has either knowledge or ability to procure, what it were well he only ſhould be ſuffered to keep, *a ſtrong and approved high bred horſe*; ſuch are become very ſcarce and out of his reach, in hands which, having diſcovered his ſuperiority, nurſe and keep him at work to a

good

good old age; ſo that the jockey, granting him judgement, will have an inferior ſort to chooſe from; will get one, which being fit for little elſe, is of courſe cheap; this he fattens up, and covers away perhaps *ſo far as* an hundred and twenty mares a year, though it is not ſuppoſed a horſe has ſufficient vigour to cover half the number properly, and not ſo many after he is 16 years old; from ſuch wrong-headed practices, can we expect goodneſs? Can we hope for active courage? I have known the breed of a whole country poiſoned for years, by an execrable ſtallion, whoſe worthleſſneſs threw him for a trifle into the hands of a *covering* groom when young; but having a good appearance, and the groom being a fellow of addreſs and conviviality, he got, to the *great misfortune of the diſtrict*, upwards of an hundred mares a year. There is a very ill-judged parſi-

parſimony among owners of mares, particularly farmers: If Eclipſe was at their market at a guinea, they would prefer the moſt awkward cart dolt at five ſhillings; or, if a cur dog would anſwer the purpoſe *gratis*, he would be the clown-adopted Strephon.

The total neglect of the breed of Forreſters, Mountaineers, and Heathers, is really amazing: The character of a good Welch, or Foreſt Poney, or Galloway, uſed to comprehend in it, an extraordinary ſhare of excellence; he was the moſt uſeful horſe in the ſtud, the maſter could not tire him, the ſervants could not throw him down or ſtarve him, or the blackſmith lame him; he was, in truth, Mungo here, Mungo there, and Mungo every where. In ſhort, his activity, ſpirit, and hardineſs, were ſuperior to every ſpecies of fatigue, neglect, or accident. Much

as it is to be lamented, that this kind of valuable little animal is almoſt extinct among us, we cannot wonder at it, when we conſider, that the inſtitutions, which the wiſdom of former times §, had judged neceſſary to keep up

§ By ſtat. 27. Hen. viii. chap. 6. Every one having inheritance or freehold in a park, kept for deer, which is a mile about, or his farmer, ſhall keep two mares, apt and able to bear foals, each being 13 hands high, on pain of 40s. for every month they keep them. If the park be four miles round, they ſhall keep four mares.

They ſhall not ſuffer any mares to be leaped by any ſtone horſe under 14 hands high, on pain of forty ſhillings.

32 Hen. viii. chap. 13. Foraſmuch as the generation and breed of good and ſtrong horſes within this realm, extendeth not only to a great help and defence of the ſame, but alſo is a great commodity and profit to the inhabitants thereof, which now is much decreaſed and diminiſhed, by reaſon, that in foreſts, chaces, moores, marſhes, heaths, manors, and waſte grounds, within this realm, little

up their ſize have been long in diſuſe, and the baubling, froſt-nipped, cat-legged wretches, which perform, or

little ſtone horſes, and nags of ſmall ſtature, and of little value, be not only ſuffered to paſture and feed thereon, but alſo to cover and leap mares feeding there, whereof cometh in manner no profit or commodity: For the reformation whereof, and for the increaſe and breed of better and ſtronger horſes hereafter to be had within this realm, be it enacted by the King our ſovereign Lord, &c.—That no Commoner or Commoners, within any foreſt, chace, moor, marſh, heath, common, or waſte ground, nor any officer or officers, of, or within any of the ſaid foreſts or chaces, or any other perſon or perſons whatſoever, he, or they be at any times after the laſt day of March, which ſhall be in the year of our Lord God 1543, ſhall have or put to paſture within, or upon any ſuch ground, foreſt, chace, moor, marſh, heath, common land, any ſtoned horſe, or horſes, being above the age of two years, and not being of the altitude or height of 15 handfuls, to be meaſured from the loweſt part of the hoof of the fore foot, unto the higheſt part of the wither, and every handful to contain four inches of the ſtandard, &c.

rather ridicule ‡ the act of copulation, inſtead of thoſe the law has deſcribed, ſufficiently ſhew the cauſe of the diminutive ſize, as well as the univerſal extinction of courage among our modern race of Ponies.—Since, therefore, we cannot expect reformation from the Gentlemen of the Turf, who, if they could, according to the fiction of Virgil, breed from the Zephyrs of the Weſt, a race only calculated to win at Newmarket, by the noſtril, would little regard whether they were peſts, or uſeful to ſociety, after their purpoſe has been anſwered; neither can it be expected from among the *promiſcuous breed*, where ſcarcely one out of forty is ſaved from

‡ For if the ſire be faint, or out of caſe,
He will be copied in his famiſh'd race,
And ſink beneath the pleaſing taſk aſſign'd:
For All's too little for the craving kind.

DRYDEN.

the

the knife of caſtration, conſequently it is forty to one but the beſt be *gelt*, which indiſcriminate cutting is at once a misfortune and diſgrace to us; every judge of a horſe muſt have met with frequent mortification in the idea that his approved and truſty ſteed has been a gelding.---It would coſt a little attention and trouble *only* to ſpare thoſe of a promiſing breed 'till they were broke in, and their characters diſcoverable, thus all ſuch as outſtrip the mediocrity might be preſerved, which would be doing leſs than the Spaniards, who ſeldom cut *any* of their horſes: Neither can it come from the foreſts, or mountains, without a ſcene of enchantment was realized, and ſtallions produced, as the ingenious fancies of Arioſto or Spencer, have produced help to their diſtreſſed damſels, and their imaginary caſtles.

We

We can only look than for a remedy of this growing evil, to the WISDOM OF PUBLIC REGULATION, and wiſh and pray, that *Stallions be appointed by Authority, and at the public Expence,* for at leaſt the *promiſcuous and wild breed.*

The legiſlature have frequently regulated their ſize and age, but found policy § requires, at *this* time, that *we* ſhould go a little further. The expences of the meaſure would be trifling in compariſon with the public advantage reſulting from it, of which we can

§ The crafty Philip of Macedon was the firſt conqueror that made any impreſſion on the rugged valour of the Scythians, whoſe virtuous poverty afforded him no rich booty in reward of his victory, but he carried away twenty thouſand mares to improve the breed of Macedonia; a circumſtance leſs ſplendid, but of far more ſolid advantage to his dominions than the acquiſition of gold and ſilver.

have

have very little doubt, if we attend to the experience of paſt times.

The only ſort of horſe found in Britain by the Romans, was the little wild one; and to that wiſe people we owe the improvement of our breed to a great degree, which they doubtleſs effected by the introduction of STALLIONS.

Juſtin, who flouriſhed under Antoninus Pius, and who epitomized the hiſtory of Trogus Pompeius, an author of great credit, who wrote under Auguſtus and Tiberius, ſays, "that Gal-"licia afforded a race of horſes not to "be matched for ſwiftneſs." — The Romans, at that time, muſt, from experience, have been competent judges of the comparative excellencies of the horſe in their different provinces. Auguſtus had been exceedingly attentive

and

and friendly to them. It was Virgil's ſkill and judgement reſpecting horſes and dogs, that firſt recommended him to the notice and favour of the Emperor.—If, therefore, the horſes of Gallicia were ſo ſuperior to thoſe of Britain in the days of Juſtin, it is a proof of the advantage of the croſs introduced by the Romans. The contraſt, at this time is very ſtriking, for ours ſo far excel them, that any compariſon would be ridiculous. Some Arabians, indeed, have been trained, but I believe no one of them ever came within a diſtance of our ſecond ſort of racers. This clearly demonſtrates our climate to be peculiarly adapted to produce *an extraordinary degree of perfection*; for *even Arabians*, as well as all other foreign horſes, are exceeding inferior to our own in moſt reſpects; and I have little doubt but the performance of prime hunters, on what

what we call a long and hard day, equal the exploits of the moſt active adventurers of Arabia *.

We

* The following inſtances of ſpeed are given in ſupport of this ſuppoſition.

On the 29th of April, 1745, Mr. Cooper Thornhill, rode from his houſe at Stilton to Shoreditch, which is 71 miles, in 8h. 52m. 59ſ.

London to Stilton,	3	50	57
Stilton to London,	3	49	56
213 miles, in	11	33	52

The match was for a great deal of money. Mr. Thornhill was allowed as many horſes as he pleaſed, and was to perform it in fifteen hours.

The Earls of March and Eglington betted Theobald Taafe, and Andrew Sproule, Eſqrs. One Thouſand Guineas, that they would get a Carriage, with four running wheels, and a perſon in or upon it, drawn by four horſes, nineteen miles in one hour. Their Lordſhips were to give two months notice what week it ſhould be done in, and had the liberty of chooſing any day in that week. It was performed on Newmarket heath, on the 29th of Aug. 1750, in 53 mnutes 27 ſeconds, as appeared by three ſtop watches

We may alſo form ſome judgment of what may reaſonably be expected from

watches the umpires held, which did not vary one ſecond.

The horſes were all bred and trained for running; three of them had won plates. The two leaders, including riders, ſaddles, and harneſs, carried about eight ſtone each, the wheel horſes about ſeven each.

The carriage, on which Buckhorſe rode, weighed about 24 ſtone: Tawney, the near-leader, was rode by William Errat, who had the conducting of the rate to go at. The off-leader, Roderick Random; the near wheel-horſe, Chance; the off-wheel horſe, Little Dan. They had all boltſters to preſerve their ſhoulders. The traces, (by an ingenious contrivance) ran into boxes with ſprings, when any of them hung back, to prevent the traces getting under their legs. A rope went from the further end of the carriage to the pole, and brought back under it, to keep it ſteady. By the ſide of each wheel, there were tin caſes, with oil dropping on the axle tree, to prevent firing.

The

from the general eſtabliſhment of good ſtallions, and the conſequent baniſh-

The horſes ran away the firſt four miles with riders and carriage, which is expreſſed in a print of that time. The match was performed before a great number of ſpectators, without any perſons attempting to ride with it, except Mr. George Tuting, and Lord March's groom, who waited on them to aſſiſt in caſe of accident.

Jenniſon Shafto, Eſq. rode at Newmarket, the 27th of June, 1759, fifty miles and a quarter, in one hour, 49 minutes, and 57 ſeconds.

Mr. Woodcock ſtarted at Newmarket the 4th of May, 1761, on a bet of Mr. Shafto with Mr. Meynel, for 2000 guineas, to ride a hundred miles a day (on one horſe each day) for 29 ſucceeding days; to have any number of horſes. A horſe called Quidnunck, one day, between nine and ten o'clock, tired, after going ſixty miles, upon which the ſpectators thought Mr. Shafto had loſt; but Woodcock took a little black mare of Mr. Major, and rode her one hundred miles within

ment of bad ones, by an extraordinary inſtance of improvement from one horſe only.

within the day, and meeting with no other accident, he won the match.

Count Lauraguais ſent Gimcrack to France to run a match againſt time; he went 23 miles on the ſummer quarter, which runs parallel with the Pavé, in about 55 minutes, and came in eaſy, carrying about eight ſtone.

A grey hack of Mr. Hanks, ran 22 miles within the hour, on the road near London; he was 23 years old, and had been foundered many years.

Remarkable as theſe performances appear, I think Mr. Powel's walking to York, which is 201 miles, and back, in ſix days, is a more extraordinary circumſtance: He ſet out from Hick's Hall ſoon after midnight, the 29th of November, 1773, and returned the 4th of December, at half paſt ſix o'clock.

The

The Earl of Godolphin, the patron and encourager of Racing in his time, had an Arabian, which was ſo low in the eſtimation of the wiſe men of the turf, that he had been for many years uſed only as a teazer. His Lordſhip, with ſome of his friends, happening to paſs by, as the teazer, after having done his office, was returning into the ſtable, and the favourite horſe brought out to cover the mare: A clergyman of the company being ſtruck with the appearance and diſappointment of the Arab, deſired his Lordſhip's permiſſion that he might cover *his* mare; which being granted, the mare was directly led out, and covered by the teazer. The parſon having no occaſion for a numerous cavalry, and the produce of this adventure becoming a plague to him, he ſold it to Lord Godolphin's ſtud groom for a hack; who, one day at exerciſe, as the horſes were taking

their gallop, had occaſion to correct a boy on one of the beſt racers. The boy archly bid him defiance, and ſet off; the groom clapped to, and in ſpite of the racer, ran up to him, and made uſe of his ſwitch on the ſhoulders of the ſpark. When cooled from the exploit, he was aſtoniſhed at ſuch an inſtance of ſpeed, and began to conſider his Roſinante very attentively; he cloathed and ſweated him, informed his Lordſhip, examined and re-examined the make, the action; the more they looked, the more they liked. In ſhort, thus accidentally, it is ſaid, was the diſcovery of the wonderful ſuperiority of the progeny of the Godolphin Arabian; who, from this time, became a favourite ſtallion. It is however greatly to be regretted, that the prime of this horſe was paſſed before he was known, he being about 18 years old before this fortunate acci-

dent:

dent: Had he been made the moſt of, from five years old, he would, like Sir Callaghan O'Brallaghan's anceſtors in the farce, have "peopled the whole kingdom with his own hands." But, late as he was diſcovered, we are indebted to him for the very beſt horſes the kingdom ever knew; equally ſuperior as racers, hunters, or hacks; and many of them ſtrong enough for carriages and dragoon ſervice; with the fineſt action, they had not that evaporative ſpirit which often miſlead the judgement; but that well tempered courage, which is always ready and diſcovered on trying occaſions.

It muſt be underſtood, when I expect ſuch great advantages from a public inſtitution of ſtallions, that the choice of them will be a matter of exceeding nicety and difficulty. It requires an aſſemblage of good qualities

lities rarely to be met with. It is not ſufficient that the eye be ſatisfied, that the ſhape and action ſtand the teſt; this will frequently happen among the ſorts moſt to be reprobated. To the perfections which are apparent, they muſt be ſuch as have undergone a very ſevere ordeal; ſuch as have carried, in a capital manner, deſperate huntſmen, or whippers-in; foul riders, or heavy weights; who uſed to knock up common hunters about the middle of the chace; ſuch as have ſtood ſound and hearty a ſeverity of military ſervices, which had deſtroyed the major part; ſuch as have been invincible on the road, as the hacks of hard riders, or ſharp driving.

I have too often been miſled by flattering appearances, and have even after the general approbation, and months of gentle riding, found, on the *fiery trial*,

trial an execrable jade, inſtead of the perfection I had promiſed myſelf; and on the contrary, from among the outcaſts of the ſpecies, have met with the utmoſt perfection; ſo that the deceptious external muſt by no means govern the choice, without it be attended by the more neceſſary qualities of courage and conſtitution; and notwithſtanding the racing eclat of Herod, Gimcrack*, Eclipſe, and Membrino, and much as they are to be admired I ſhould be cautious of pronouncing po-

* I muſt mention Gimcrack among the ſelect, notwithſtanding he is a little horſe, as he has given more proofs of real goodneſs than any other horſe ever did; for, beſides his great merit as a racer and his race againſt time in France, he was a good hack at three years old, Mr. Wildman's riding groom rode him from Mickleham to Newmarket and back, and there are no harder riders on the road then theſe gentlemen; beſides, I underſtand he gets very fine ſtrong ſtock.

 ſitively

ſitively in *their* favour without further knowledge of their general ſterling merit ; I ſhould wiſh to have ſeen them at ſome ſevere ſervice for a twelvemonth.

The MANAGEMENT of horſes is of ſuch material conſequence, that it is in vain to look for the advantages of which the ſubject is ſuſceptible from an improvement of the breed *only* ; in the management, however, we cannot proceed to reformation deciſively.— Government may appoint and ſupport ſtallions, but it cannot I fear inforce the moſt rational and advantageous ſyſtem of management ; I ſhall therefore content myſelf with pointing out a few of the abuſes which operate moſt fatally to the deſtruction of this noble animal ; leaving it to the good ſenſe and humanity of thoſe who have opportunity to be fully inform'd, and influence ſufficient to ſit and to inforce examples of

of care and honeſty to the ignorant, the negligent, and the wicked.

The horſe is an animal of ſuch exceeding ſtrength, of ſo robuſt a conſtitution, and ſubject to ſuch few diſeaſes; that without he meets with accident or violence, he ſupports very hard labour to a great age; if gently treated when very young, and not *much* abuſed afterwards, the generality of them will labour vigorouſly till two or three and twenty, frequently much longer.—Conſidering his great uſefulneſs to ſociety, it appears extraordinary that there ſhould be in human form his enemy, and yet ſtrange as it is, we ſhall find a terrible banditti waging perpetual and deſtructive war againſt him; theſe conſiſt of the colt-breaker, the dealer, the farrier, and the ſervant; under the latter deſcription, muſt be comprehended all perſons who have the

care and are truſted with the feed and management of them, whether they be called grooms, ſtable keepers, oſtlers, coachmen, or helpers.

The breaking a colt properly is a very material ſtep: He is delivered gay and wanton to the breaker, whoſe very trappings terrify and convulſe him; thus alarmed and forced forth, it is impoſſible but he muſt rebel; the colt-breaker is a deſpotic prince and his meaſures are ſanguinary; the whipping, ſpurring, &c. is more or leſs furious, according to the degree of natural courage in the animal; however, a diurnal exhibition of cruelty and violence (exciting fevers and laying the foundation of numberleſs diſorders) with the aſſiſtance of ſtarving, will certainly ſubdue his ſpirit, and he will be broke; better I think would it be, if the necks of half the number

were

were broke before they came into the hands of Mr. Colt-breaker, ſo that the remaining half were fitted for uſe, by the mild and more effectual means of gentleneſs and patience.

If the colt recover this horrid abuſe, he is next to undergo the exorciſms of the horſe-dealer, whoſe various tricks and cruelties compoſe a compleat plan for ſpoiling him; and I conſider the purſe of an ignorant buyer can in no caſe be in greater danger than when he is bargaining with one of theſe gentry for a nag, which thus in maſquerade he views with delight, and upon which, in conſequence of the Yorkſhire panegyric, he thinks he ſhall beggar all deſcription; but, alas, a few rides and little time awakens him to his credulity and his folly; for the diſeaſes, which the abuſes of his former owners had ingender'd, or the imper-

fections their cunning had concealed, are very expenſive leſſons of caution and patience in future. The farrier commits more general ravages than either of the former, and as ſhoeing is his moſt baleful operation, I ſhall ſpeak of his ſapience in the words of Mr. Oſmer, remarking that it is exceedingly to be regretted, that the pernicious and vilely-formed pieces of iron, commonly called a ſhoe, which he clearly demonſtrates to be ſo generally fatal, ſhould ſtill be in uſe; for except the royal and army horſes, and a few ſhops about town, which have profited by his doctrine and example, our ſhoeing is nearly as ſavage and deſtructive as ever.

"In many parts of the world to this day, even on the moſt rocky ground, horſes are accuſtomed to carry their riders

riders unſhod, and in this kingdom I have known ſeveral horſes rode for a conſiderable time unſhod on the turnpike road about London, without any injury done to their feet. And I believe there are many horſes that might travel their whole life time unſhod, if they were raſped round and ſhort at the toe; becauſe all feet expoſed to hard objects, become thereby more obdurate, if the ſole be never pared, and ſome by their particular form, depth and ſtrength, are enabled to reſiſt them quite, and to ſupport the weight without breaking: And here a very little reflection will teach us whence the cuſtom of ſhoeing aroſe in one part of the world and not in another. In Arabia, there is no ſuch cuſtom as ſhoeing horſes at all, becauſe the feet acquire a very obdurate and firm texture from the dryneſs of the climate and the ſoil, and do really

want

want no defence; but every rider has a raſp to ſhorten his horſe's feet, which would otherwiſe grow long and rude, and the cruſt would moſt certainly ſplit. But the horſes brought up on wet and moiſt land, will naturally have a wider and weaker foot, it being of a cartilagineous nature, and therefore capable of *contraction and expanſion:* Becauſe there was always a great difference in the texture of horſes feet brought upon different ſoils, mankind (after certain periods of time when the face of the earth became changed) found themſelves obliged to add a defence, beſides the natural one, to preſerve the cruſt of ſuch feet as were weak, and not ſo well able to ſupport them againſt new and hard objects. From the good of this practice, tried and diſcovered on particular kinds of feet, it is no wonder, that the cuſtom of putting ſhoes on all kind of feet became

came general in ſome counties. Our anceſtors, the original ſhoers, propoſed nothing more, I dare ſay, in their firſt efforts, than to preſerve the cruſt from breaking away, and thought themſelves happy they had ſkill ſo to do: the moderns alſo are wiſely content with this in the racing way. But in proceſs of time, the fertility of invention and the vanity of mankind, have produced variety of methods, almoſt *all which are productive of lameneſs*; and I am thoroughly convinced, from obſervation and experience, that nineteen lame horſes out of every twenty in this kingdom, *are lame of the artiſt*, which is owing to the form of the ſhoe, his ignorance of the deſign of nature and mal-treatment of the foot, every part of which is made for ſome uſe or purpoſe, though he does not happen to know it. But waving all, theſe modern artiſts know, or do not know,

I ſuppoſe

I ſuppoſe it will be univerſally aſſented to, that whatever method of ſhoeing approaches neareſt to the law of nature, ſuch is likely to be the moſt perfect method, and as the feet of different horſes differ from ſome other, ſo if we would arrive at any perfection in this art, the human reaſon muſt be employed in diſcovering and aſcertaining wherein their difference conſiſts, that each may be treated according to its nature; and yet with reſpect to each, and all, ſome general rules may ſtill be allowed. For the ſake of thoſe who may be unacquainted with horſes feet, and for their inſtruction, I ſhall deſcribe ſuch parts only of the foot, for the preſent, as offer themſelves to our view, and come under our cognizance, as the immediate and principal objects of care when intended to be ſhod. Theſe are the outer ſole, the cruſt, which like a wall, ſurrounds it; the

frog,

frog, the bars, one on each ſide, and the ſpongy ſkin-like ſubſtance which covers the hinder and cellular part of the foot, and is continued to the heel of the horſe.

With reſpect to the treatment of ſome of theſe, the Seiur La Foſſe (to whom the world is indebted for many ingenious obſervations) has already laid down ſome rules; and therefore I dare ſay every man who has tried his method of ſhoeing, is convinced of its impropriety; I mean as a general method, and yet ſome uſeful hints may be gathered from his doctrine, and the good and evil of his ſhoe will be ſpoken of hereafter.—He ſays, the ſole ſhould never be pared; his reaſon is very obvious and juſt, namely that the ſole not pared, acquires a great degree of firmneſs and obduracy, whereby it is better able to reſiſt all extraneous bo-

dies;

dies, ſuch as glaſs, nails, flints, &c. &c. There is another reaſon equally obvious, which is, that the wiſdom of the Creator intended this outer ſole and its obduracy as a natural and proper defence to the inner ſole, which lies immediately under the other between that and the bone of the foot; this inner ſole being nothing elſe but the expanſion of one of the tendons of the leg, which is continued to the bottom of the foot, and overſpreads the bone thereof. This tendenous expanſion, when the outer ſole is pared and the animal put into violent motion, is for want of its defence, ſuſceptible of great pain, conſequently liable to great inflammation, and from this cauſe many a horſe has been rendered lame for ever. If it be aſked, what becomes of the ſole when not pared, it dries, ſeperates, and ſcales away. La Foſſe has alſo ſaid, the frog ſhould never be

pared;

pared; his reaſon is, the frog being united to that tendon of the leg which is continued down to the bottom of the ſole (all which tendons are unelaſtick bodies) is itſelf an elaſtick body, is placed there as a proper point of ſupport, and ſerves as a baſis to relieve this tendon at each ſtep or motion; but if the frog be pared, it cannot be admitted to touch the ground; for want of which ſupport, the tendon is elongated and ſtrained, hence frequent lameneſſes in this tendon is occaſioned, and from this cauſe alſo wind-galls are moſt frequently produced. I know there are many people who maintain tendons to be elaſtick bodies, but it is a ridiculous and vulgar error, for all tendons, or muſcles, are confined to their proper ſphere of acting; and from hence it will follow, that if they were elaſtick, the force of any muſcle (part of which

is

is tendenous) would be eluded before ſuch tendenous part could act in its proper object.

Moreover, every man's eye will ſhew him, tendons are not elaſtick, from their looſe uncontracted figure, which is eaſily to be perceived in the hinder leg of the horſe, when he moves gently. There are other reaſons why the frog ſhould not be pared. If admitted to touch the ground, it helps to ſtop the horſe from ſliding, as the figure of it will plainly evince. The frog, together with the bars, occupy the hinder part of the foot, is deſigned by nature to diſtend and keep it open, which, when cut away, ſuffer the heels, the quarters, and the coronary ring, to become contracted, whereby another lameneſs is produced, which ſhall be treated of in its proper place. The bar is that part ſituated between the heel, the frog,

frog, and the quarter on each ſide, and is not to be ſcooped out according to the general cuſtom, for the reaſon laſt mentioned; becauſe, together with the frog, its uſe is to keep open the hinder part of the foot as well as to defend it. The ſpungy ſkin-like ſubſtance is not to be cut away till it becomes raggy, becauſe it is the expanſion of the ſkin round the heel, its uſe being to unite more firmly the foot and its contents, and to keep the cellular part of the heel from growing rigid; it alſo ſurrounds the coronary ring, and may be obſerved to peel and dry away as it deſcends on the hoof. There are general rules to be obſerved with reſpect to every kind of foot. But becauſe La Foſſe has ſaid, the ſole and frog ſhould never be pared, many of our countrymen, miſtaking his meaning, have fallen into another extreme, and ſo have not pared the foot at all. Yet

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it is neceſſary that the cruſt of all horſes, which are ſhod, ſhould be pared more or leſs, according to its different degree of ſtrength; but no general method can be laid down in this reſpect, becauſe the nature of the feet differ greatly from each other, by which alone the artiſt is to be guided. And to prove this neceſſity of paring the cruſt, it is to be obſerved, that the ſuperficies of the cruſt of every foot, whereon the ſhoe reſt, becomes rotten in a few weeks, ſo that if a new ſhoe be ſet upon an unſound foundation, it will not ſtand firm long. The cruſt alſo in ſuch caſe will ſhell and break away. Now, where the foot is deep and hollow, the cruſt is generally thick and ſtrong; this cannot be pared down too low (ſo as not to fall into the quick) becauſe the ſtrength of the cruſt alone will occaſion ſuch a compreſſion in the interior parts of the foot, as to

produce

produce a lameneſs." "In all broad fleſhy feet the cruſt is thin, and ſhould therefore ſuffer the leaſt poſſible loſs. On ſuch feet, the raſp alone is generally ſufficient to make the bottom plain and produce a ſound foundation, without the uſe of the deſperate buttreſs, and thus each kind of foot is to be treated according to its different degree of ſtrength or weakneſs. The ſuperficies of the foot round the outſide, now made plain and ſmooth, *the ſhoe is to be made quite flat*, of an equal thickneſs all round the outſide, open, and moſt narrow backwards at the extremities of the heel for the generality of horſes, thoſe whoſe frogs are diſeaſed from natural or incidental cauſes, requiring the ſhoe to be wider backwards; and to prevent this flat ſhoe from preſſing on the ſole of the horſe, the outer part thereof is to be made thickeſt, and the inſide gradually thin-

ner. In ſuch a ſhoe, the frog is admitted to touch the ground, the neceſſity of which has been already ſhewn. Add to this, the horſe ſtands more firmly on the ground, having the ſame points of ſupport as in a natural ſtate. Here is now a plain, eaſy method, agreeable to common ſenſe and reaſon, conformable to the anatomical ſtructure of the parts, and therefore to the deſign of nature. A method ſo plain, that one would think, that no perſon could ſwerve from it, or commit any miſtakes in an art, where nothing is required but to make ſmooth the ſurface of the foot, to know what loſs of cruſt ſuch kind of foot will bear with advantage to itſelf, and to nail thereon a piece of iron, adapted to the natural tread of the horſe, the deſign or uſe of the iron being only to defend the cruſt from breaking; the ſole wanting no defence if never pared."—"Now the

modern

modern artiſt uſes little difference in the treatment of any kind of foot, but with a ſtrong arm and ſharp weapon carries all before him, and will take more from a weak footed horſe at one paring, than nature can furniſh again in ſome months, whereby ſuch are rendered lame. If a ſtrong footed horſe, with narrow and contracted heels, be brought before him, ſuch meets with treatment yet more ſevere, the bar is ſcooped out, the frog trimmed and the ſole drawn as thin as poſſible, even to the quick, under pretence of giving him eaſe, becauſe, he ſays, he is hot footed or foundered, by which treatment the horſe is rendered more lame than he was before."—"I ſhall demonſtrate that the ſhoe commonly made uſe of is contrary to ſenſe and reaſon, as well as to the natural tread of the horſe's foot. It is to be underſtood, that no horſe can go if the ſhoe reſt

upon the ſole, and to avoid this evil, the modern ſhoe muſt be formed and ſtand concave, becauſe the modern ſhoe is made thinneſt on the outſide, and thickeſt on the inſide. Mark now the inconvenience ariſing from the unequal ſurface of ſuch a ſhoe. The horſe having fewer points of ſupport, is more liable to blunder, to ſtrain the tendons, injure the cartilages and ligaments, break the bones of the foot, and diſlocate ſome of the joints of the fore part."

"La Foſſe gave a caution againſt uſing cramps (what we call corking or turning up in froſts) he ſays, that the frog being hereby removed to a great diſtance from the ground, the tendon will be ruptured."

I conſider the almoſt general lameneſs of the aſs-footed, narrow-heeled ſort,

ſort, to have originated in the rage for Arabs, which ſucceeded the diſcovery of the extraordinary qualities of the get of the Godolphin Arabian, and think with Mr. Oſmer and others, that *he was* the genuine Mountain Arab, of which fame ſays ſo much, but that we *never have had one in England ſince*, at leaſt not a good one, but have been impoſed on by an infamous croſs of Barbs and Turks, as inferior in true courage and activity to the real Mountain Arabian, as our horſes, bred in Fens and Marſhes, are to Mountaneers and Forreſters; and theſe ſpurious foreigners have not only leſſened our breed, but have actually ingendered a conſtitutional lameneſs among us.—

I will mention one inſtance of what I here mean by a conſtitutional lameneſs: A gentleman of my acquaintance purchaſed an extraordinary fine mare, which

proved alſo for two years an exceeding good one, and then turned out (without any accident or apparent injury) compleatly foundered: after many ineffectual efforts to bring her about, he put her to horſe and bred ſix colts out of her, *by different horſes*, every one of which went lame or foundered at five and ſix years old, ſome of them before they had been uſed, except in breaking, and all of them like the dam had hot contracted feet: a horſe as bad as this mare, covering his hundred mares a year, for ſix or ſeven years, would have been a calamity to a country, but, though I hope, there are not many ſuch palpable inſtances as this among our ſtallions, yet different degrees of the malady, a propenſity to pain and contraction is become very common, I had almoſt ſaid univerſal, among the breed of ſaddle horſes, wanting only the aid of the blackſmith,

or

or to be kept IDLE in a HOT ſtable to perfect a lameneſs.

Away then with our preſent ſet of miſchievous foreigners, and let us not reſt till we have procured *at any coſt*, a few from the Sultan's Stud, to which the prime of Arabia are annually brought as tributes, ſince it ſeems, from dear bought experience, that the admired animal we want is to be got no where elſe.—It is the received opinion that the greateſt perfection appears in the ſecond degree, that the ſon of an Arabian is a more deſirable ſtallion for Engliſh mares than the Arabian himſelf, conſequently four or five ſuch as the Godolphin Arabian, judiciouſly applied, would effect an improvement out of calculation:—beſides, numberleſs other national advantages, the improvement of our cavalry would be very important.—The

exploits

exploits of Elliot and Burgoyne's regiments, laſt war, demonſtrated very clearly to the whole world, the deciſive advantage of cavalry mounted on horſes of activity; and I am confident I riſque very little in auguring, that in a few years our whole corps of dragoons might be mounted in ſuch a manner, as to add to their ponderoſity (at preſent their excelling characterestic) the agility which has rendered thoſe regiments objects of the admiration of every military critic in Europe; the charge of our dragoons is allowed by all to be terrible, but they muſt not be hurried; or if by chance they have been hurried, they muſt halt to take breath before the onſet; in either caſe the opportunity is loſt nine times in ten, where a hunting kind of horſe (as in the affair of Colonel Harcourt taking General Lee) forces a long march on

the

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the ſpur, and yet has wind ſufficient to charge directly.

If by public regulation we could get rid of the ſwarms of cripple ingendering barbs and illigitimate Arabs that now infeſt us, and replace them as has been pointed out, and alſo introduce into general uſe the ſimple flat ſhoe, which expand the heel, and preſerves the foot, inſtead of thoſe which are now uſed, and which have a direct tentency to contract the heel, lame the horſe, and throw him down; I ſhould no more expect to ſee the majority of a hundred horſes (indifferently taken,) lame, than I ſhould expect to ſee it happen in a hundred men, alſo indifferently taken; and yet as it is I fear it moſt probable, that if the ſaddle and carriage horſes, in the capital, were led coolly out of the ſtable, walked and trotted, on the ſtones, it would be

be found that three fourths of them, went crumpling and tender, and were verging towards a founder, and from being cramp'd in ſhoeing, are very unſafe for indifferent riders.

Our ſervants, &c. do not remedy, by their experience, faithfulneſs and aſſiduity, the ravages juſt mentioned; on the contrary, I take their conduct to be in general a compoſition of ignorance, knavery, tricks and ſpoilings.—The dominion of theſe gentlemen of the curry-comb, ſeems, however, to be firmly eſtabliſhed, and this (without gentlemen would inform themſelves, and take a little trouble) is the moſt difficult part of our ſyſtem of reformation.

I will not attempt to particularize the various miſchiefs reſulting from the negligence and villainy of thoſe intruſted with the care and feed of horſes;

horſes; but leave it to every one's obſervation; let him whoſe horſes are lean, weak and foggy, on moderate work, and a weekly expence of half a guinea or twelve ſhillings, make two months fair experiment; really giving them, or cauſing to be given them, ſeven ſhillings worth of corn and hay, which is a ſhilling a week more than Mr. Moore's allowance; at the average price of corn and hay; adding, if it be to be got, a couple of handfuls of clean and freſh wheat ſtraw, and ſanfoin hay, cut into chaff, to every feed; I know the idea of chaff will be treated with ſovereign contempt by grooms, and am as much as theſe gentry can be, againſt giving a horſe in riding condition, foul, ſtale, or bad chaff; but the beſt wheat ſtraw and hay, freſh cut, is a very healthy thing, and will, I am *very poſitive*, make three quarters of oats go as far as four; a

circumſtance

circumſtance, though of no weight with the groom, is a very material conſideration to his maſter, and to the STATE; Let him very cautiouſly examine the horſe he is adviſed to purchaſe, and the reality of the faults which induce him to ſell; let him on theſe occaſions (if his own judgment be incompetent) look for a more diſintereſted adviſer than his uſual privy counſellor; it is their *intereſt* to ſpoil and deſtroy, to be buying and chopping; if, on the contrary, rewards were a conſequence of the health and good condition of horſes, inſtead of *bribes from dealers*, debauching ſervants from the intereſts *of their maſters*, there would be far leſs to complain of; but I fear the diſeaſe is incurable.

The breaking racing colts; indeed the whole management of *them*, till taken into training, is a pattern of good conduct;

conduct; well inſtructed careful lads *only* are ſuffered to meddle with them; they begin the firſt winter to careſs * and handle them when feeding, and go on

* Virgil's deſcription of the horſe is ſo beautiful, and great part of the 3d Georgic, ſo much to the point, that it muſt both pleaſe and inſtruct the reader.

" Like diligence require the courſer's race;
In early choice; and for a longer ſpace.
The colt, that for a ſtallion is deſign'd,
By ſure preſages ſhows his generous kind,
Of able body, ſound of limb and wind.
Upright he walks in paſtures firm and ſtraight,
His motion eaſy; prancing in his gait.
The firſt to lead the way, to tempt the flood;
To paſs the bridge unknown, nor fear the trembling wood.
Dauntleſs at empty noiſes; lofty neck'd;
Sharp headed, barrel-belly'd, broadly back'd,
Brawny his cheſt and deep; his colour grey,
For beauty dappled, or the brighteſt bay:
Faint white and dun will ſcarce the rearing pay.
The fiery courſer, when he hears from far,
The ſprightly trumpets and the ſhouts of war,

Pricks

on every winter (which is certainly the beſt time) by gentleneſs and quietneſs to

Pricks up his ears, and trembling with delight,
Shifts place and paws; and hopes the promiſed fight.
On his right ſhoulder his thick mane's reclin'd,
Ruffles at ſpeed and dances in the wind.
His horny hoofs are jetty black, and round,
His chine is double, ſtarting with a bound,
He turns the turf and ſhakes the ſolid ground.
Fire from his eyes, clouds from his noſtrils flow,
He bears his rider headlong on the foe.
Such was the ſtead, in Grecian poet's fam'd,
Proud Cyllarus by Spartan Pollux tam'd:
Such courſers, born to fight the God of Thrace;
And ſuch, Achillis, was thy warlike race.
In ſuch a ſhape grim Saturn did reſtrain
His heav'nly limbs, and flow'd with ſuch a mane:
When half ſurprized, and fearing to be ſeen,
The leacher gallop'd, from his jealous queen:
Ran up the ridges of the rocks amain,
And with ſhrill neighings, fill'd the neighbouring plain.

But worn with years, when dire diſeaſes come,
Then hide his not ignoble age at home:
In peace t'enjoy his former palms and pains;
And gratefully be kind to his remains.

For

to familiarize them to different noiſes, the ſaddle, tying up, leading about with a degree

For when his blood no youthful ſpirits move,
He languiſhes and labours in his love.
And when the ſprightly ſeed ſhould ſwiftly come,
Dribling he drudges, and defrauds the womb.
In vain he burns, like haſty ſtubble fires;
And in himſelf his former ſelf requires.
His age and courage weigh, nor thoſe alone,
But note his father's virtues and his own;
Obſerve if he diſdains to yield the prize;
Of loſs impatient, proud of victories."

"If to the warlike ſteed thy ſtudies bend,
Or for the prize in chariots to contend;
Near Piſa's flood the rapid wheels to guide,
Or in Olympian groves aloft to ride.
The generous labours of the courſer, firſt,
Muſt be with ſight of arms, and ſound of trumpets nurſt:
Inur'd the groaning axletree to bear;
And let him claſhing whips in ſtables hear.
Sooth him with praiſe, and let him underſtand,
The loud applauſes of his maſter's hand:
This from his weaning let him well be taught,
And then betimes in a ſoft ſnaffle wrought:

Before

a degree of temper which betrays them into a docility that makes the regular breaking unneceſſary ;—I object, however, to cramming and pampering them ; for beſides the extravagance of the

Before his tender joints with nerves are knit,
Untry'd in arms and trembling at the bit.
But when to four full ſprings his years advance,
Teach him to run the round, with pride to prance;
And (tightly managed) equal time to beat,
To turn, to bound in meaſure, and curvet.
Let him to this with eaſy pains be brought,
And ſeem to labour when he labours not.
Thus form'd to ſpeed he challenges the wind,
And leaves the Scythian arrows far behind:
He ſcours along the field with looſen'd reins,
And treads ſo light, he ſcarcely prints the plains.
Like Boreas in his race when ruſhing forth,
He ſweeps the ſkies and clears the cloudy North.
The weaving harveſt bend beneath his blaſt,
The foreſt ſhakes, the groves their honours caſt;
He flies aloft, and with impetuous roar,
Purſues the framing ſurges to the ſhore.
Thus o'er the Elean plains thy well breathed horſe,
Impels the flying ear and wins the courſe.

Or

the meaſure, it defeats the very purpoſe it was meant to anſwer, a colt or

Or bread to Belgian * waggons leads the way,
Untir'd at night and chearful all the day.
When once he's broken, feed him full and high,
Indulge his growth, and his gaunt ſides ſupply.
Before his training, keep him poor and low,
For his ſtout ſtomach with his food will grow.
The pamper'd colt will diſcipline diſdain,
Impatient of the laſh, and reſtive to the rein.
Wou'dſt thou their courage and their ſtrength improve,
Too ſoon they muſt not feel the ſtings of love.

DRYDEN.

* This intercourſe by waggons between Belgic Gaul (now the Netherlands) and Rome, could not have been carried on with the unremitting diligence here deſcribed, by other than horſes of high courage,—one third of the journey would have tired the mere cart horſe.—The loſs of cannon, baggage waggons, &c. in the late German war, when the army retreated haſtily, or in bad weather, coſt this country millions; beſides the importance of their falling into the hands of the enemy, had our train horſes been choſen on the judicious plan of theſe Belgian waggon horſes, the cannon and baggage would have been ſaved four times out of five.

any thing elſe grows beſt, and is moſt healthy, on *moderate* food. Many perſons have kept dairies for the uſe of their colts in addition to the milk of the dam, and have given them oatmeal and even flour, but I never heard that theſe meaſures produced any good effect, but the very contrary.

The great ſuperiority of Forreſters and Mountaineers, ariſes in a great meaſure from the fagging they neceſſarily undergo from the day of their birth; continually on the ſcamper, they are ſuperior to every difficulty and variety of ground, and greatly excel in point of *ſafety* thoſe bred in marſhes and rich meadows, or trained on fine turf, who very naturally will acquire the habit of going careleſs, and near the ground.

Thus excellent then as we find theſe little animals in every point of view,

we

we cannot ſufficiently deplore their preſent miſerable ſtate.

The breeding ſtock are ſufficiently numerous to afford a ſupply of hacks for the whole kingdom; if bred to thirteen, or thirteen hands and a half, moſt would be ſtrong enough for any weight; I have ſeen wonders done even a hunting, by ſome, and am confident their ſtrength is better applied to the plough and harrow, than that of a high horſe.

Except a very few, whoſe owners take ſome care of them; and which are the few we ſee performing the deſperate ſervices that we are told the ſort in general were equal to forty years ago, their condition is truly pitiable; without the leaſt aſſiſtance of food or ſhelter from the ſeverity of the weather, great part of them periſh

the firſt winter, if they do not chance to die, they are ſtunted and ſpoiled; their extreme hunger impels them to attempt the firſt green thing that appears in ſpring, which is the graſs about the bogs; being ſo weak, many are mired in their efforts to get at it; the young graſs ſcowers others to death, and thoſe that happen to ſurvive, are miſerable ſpectacles, frequently mangy and ſcabby, in ſo ſad a ſtate, that the ſummer being too ſhort for their recovery, the ſecond winter compleats the buſineſs.—The ſmall remnant that remains, by mere dint of hardineſs, being ſo ſtinted in their growth, are good for little or nothing; it is common to ſee a mare, and two or three of her colts, keep together; and I have frequently remarked in autumn, the ſucking foal to be the biggeſt, abſolutely as high, as any of the older one's, and believe, that nine out of

ten

ten never grow after the very bad weather of the firſt winter ſets in, and the milk of the dam fails, except ſuch as I have before obſerved, may have ſome aſſiſtance; and the number of theſe are *trifling*.

Hence it will not appear extraordinary, that in a pariſh where there have been above a thouſand, I have in vain looked for a young Forreſter able to carry thirteen ſtone; in fact, there is no ſuch thing to be found; they run from nine hands and a half to eleven, very few twelve, and one of twelve and a half is a wonder; and as I have before remarked, the want of ſtallions, and ſome little care in winter, has extinguiſhed their *fire and ſpirit*, as well as diminiſhed their ſize, ſo that they poſitively are not * worth catching:—

 Humanity,

* If the Act of 32 Hen. VIII. was inforced, nineteen out of twenty would be provided for by the 7th

Humanity, as well as policy, calls aloud in favour of theſe little ſufferers; it is our duty and our intereſt that they be either aſſiſted or deſtroyed; it would be far more merciful to exterminate, than to ſuffer them thus to groan under more than Egyptian cruelty.

This work of humanity and public utility under the protection and countenance of our illuſtrious ſovereign, might be eaſily affected; by an appro-

7th clauſe—"And furthermore be it enacted, That if in any of the ſaid drifts there ſhould be found any mare, filley, foal, or gelding, that then ſhall be thought not to be able, nor like to grow to be able, to bear foals of reaſonable ſtature, or not able, nor like to grow to be able to do profitable labours, by the diſcretion of the drivers aforeſaid; or of the more number of them, then the ſaid drivers ſhall cauſe the ſame unprofitable beaſts, and every of them to be killed, and the bodies of them to be buried in the ground, or otherways beſtowed, as no noyance thereby ſhall come, or grow to the people, there near inhabiting, or thither reſorting.

priation

priation of Foreſt land, ſufficient to produce ſtraw, to fodder, and a place ſheltered, and littered, that they may retire to, and lye dry and warm, in the extreme ſeverity of the weather;—if a little more could be done for the *very* young, and thoſe not well, it would be better;—but they muſt by no means be made acquainted with luxury—there is *but* a little weather in a winter which (except the weaning colts) they will not ſcuffle through very well; this little, however, is enough to ſpoil them, and is what we muſt defend them againſt; an opportunity will by ſuch plan be got to overcome the wildneſs of the colts, by the gentle treatment at feeding times before-mentioned, and the place they are foddered in, ſhould be contrived a fit one to catch them for ſale.

The

The few colts there are in a year, worth taking to market, muſt be catched at an expence of five ſhillings each; the colt-catchers are deſperate fellows, mounted on the beſt ponies to be found, attended by a poſſé of men, women, children and dogs, who take poſt on all the adjacent eminences, and like ſo many demoniacks, commence a furious chace, which is a ſcene of riding, running, ſcreaming, and hallowing, till the frighted devil is tired, thrown down, or run into a bog; after this ceremony, comes on that of Foreſt-breaking, for the owners having no incloſures to hold them, they muſt go immediately to a Fair for ſale.

The colt tyed to a long rope is furiouſly forced round by ſevere whipping, till his ſtrength is nearly ſpent; then a man, no matter of what weight,

gets

gets upon him, and he is hauled along the road with the whip behind him; receiving, at the times he endeavours to go out of a ſtrait line, ſuch jerks from the holder of the rope as twiſts, diſtend, and nearly brings him to the earth; when his ſtrength and courage are totally exhauſted upon this plan, he is pronounced broke in; and thus cloſes the firſt ſtage of his miſery, which begins the winter he is foaled, as I have before obſerved.—

The vaſt number of horſes ſpoiled in London, by being kept in *idleneſs*; fooliſhly diſtending the jaws of an overgrown capital, is a complaint demanding a particular inquiry; it has been ſaid, and I believe with great truth; that one third of the number of real good riding horſes would do more work than all of them actually perform, and the cattle enjoy more health;

health; but common hacks are become ſo infamous, ſo very unſafe, and their hire ſo extravagant, that gentlemen are obliged to keep horſes themſelves for a few rides only in a year; which ſurely will not be the caſe if any ſucceſsful efforts ſhould be made to improve the breed, ſo that good and ſafe hacks may be eaſily had.

Vaſt numbers of perſons in town, who have not half work enough to keep one horſe in health, keep two, in order to comply with the eſtabliſhed cuſtom of turning frequently to graſs. —The many accidents and diſappointments I met with in turning to graſs, led me to doubt, not only the abſolute neceſſity, but even the general utility of the meaſure, and obſervation has abundantly confirmed theſe ſuſpicions.

I admit

I admit that horſes are beſt continually running out and in, with a mixture of green and dry food, as their exerciſe may be more or leſs ſevere; indeed green feed in ſummer, and carrots in winter, are ſo conducive to the health of horſes, by preventing and removing fevers, and inflammations, as vegetables and fruit do in the human habit; that it cannot be too ſtrongly recommended, and would be far better for London nags, than to vomit them out of their hot ſtables, into marſhes, on the firſt appearance of fine weather in ſpring, which being generally ſucceeded by cold rain, winds, and froſts, occaſion a multitude of diſorders and miſchiefs, to which thoſe are not liable who continually run out and in, or are uniformly kept in the ſtable.

If

If a horſe's ſervices are not wanted, or if from an accident he wants reſt, turning to graſs is well;—to ſuch as have a field at their ſtable door, or uſe their horſes but little, it is convenience and œconomical; but the neceſſity, or even propriety of turning horſes out for a month or two, who have been ſeaſoned to the ſtable, and who are wanted at work, upon trifling indiſpoſitions, or in compliance with modern cuſtom, I totally deny, and am very confident that moſt of the cures that are aſcribed to the excurſion to graſs, really proceed from a ceſſation of the neglects and abuſes, which the ſilent animal had endured in the ſtable;—The very many inſtances of uninterrupted health and longevity, that upon a ſtrict enquiry, will be found among horſes, that have been worked conſtantly without ever having been to graſs, will I truſt, fully eſtabliſh this doctrine,

doctrine, and induce the gentlemen of London to provide occaſionally ſome tares, clover and carrots, for their horſes in the ſtable, working them at the ſame time, which will prevent their being plundered by farriers, grooms, and horſe-dealers; and preſerve the rich marſhes in the vicinity of the capital, for the production of food for its too numerous inhabitants.

It has been remarked, in a celebrated hunt, that the hacks which had been ſeverely worked all ſummer, have before Chriſtmas, been in higher condition and beat the beſt hunters, who have been at graſs till September;—from hence, as well as for other reaſons, I conclude, that the hunter, inſtead of having been benefited, had been injured, by his trip to graſs, and does not recover it in leſs than three months; conſequently had better have been

been gently worked all the ſummer, on green feed with his corn, given in the ſtable, or if poſſible out, in an open cool hovel, or ſtable.—The œconomy of this meaſure will not be ſo generally allowed as it now is, if there be any truth in the aſſertions of a calculator, who maintains, that a horſe at graſs, eats, ſoils and tramples, three times as much, as if cut, would feed him in the houſe.—To theſe reaſons, I will add a circumſtance from a memoir of M. De Reaumer, reſpecting ſhort worms or bots, which I have frequently found, have, for a long time, robbed my horſe of his ſpirit and vivacity; he becomes pot bellied, creſt fallen; his coat ſtares, is greedy of water; in ſhort, to all appearance a mere jade, and ſometimes I have known them fatal.—He ſays, if the horſe be uſeful to mankind, he is abſolutely neceſſary to the fly—The ſame

Being

Being that formed the horſe, formed alſo this fly, which depends wholly on the horſe for its preſervation and continuance.—Theſe flies, like thoſe of all the other ſpecies, receive their firſt life and growth in the form of worms,---but theſe are worms that can be produced and nouriſhed only in the inteſtines of a horſe.

The flies, from which theſe bots are produced, inhabit the country, and do not come near houſes, at leaſt not near thoſe of great towns, *and therefore horſes are never liable to have theſe ſhort worms in their bodies; if they have been kept in the houſe, and eſpecially in a town during the ſummer and autumn.*---Dr. Gaſpari attained by mere accident, as he was one day looking at his mares in a field, the very uncommon ſight of one of theſe flies, applying itſelf to the anus of a mare in order to gain admittance

mittance and depoſit its eggs; it failed in its firſt attempt, but he obſerved it to go off, towards a mare that was feeding at a diſtance from the reſt; and now the fly taking a more effectual method to obtain its deſign, paſſed under the tail of the mare and ſo made its way to the anus.

Here at firſt it occaſioned only an itching, by which the inteſtine was protruded with an increaſed aperture of the anus; the fly taking advantage of this, penetrated further and ſecured itſelf in the folds of the inteſtine;--- this effected, it was in a ſituation proper for laying its eggs.---

Soon after this the mare became very violent, running, prancing, kicking and throwing herſelf on the ground; in ſhort, was not quiet, nor returned

to

to feeding, till after a quarter of an hour.

The worms ſoon make their way to the inteſtines of the horſe, and maintain their ſituation againſt all efforts of the excrement to force them out, by two unequal claws, with which one of them faſtened upon M. de R's finger, as he was examining it, in ſuch a manner, that he found great difficulty in diſengaging himſelf. —A few of them he ſuppoſes to be of no bad conſequence, but if very numerous, they force their way into the ſtomach and are very fatal.

M. Valliſnieri counted upwards of ſeven hundred eggs in one fly, and ſuppoſes, them to have been the cauſe of an epidemical diſeaſe, that deſtroyed a great many horſes about Verona and Mantua, in 1713; for on diſſect-

ing them, great quantities of ſhort worms were found in the ſtomach; which he compares to the kernels of a pomegranate opened;—they had reduced the ſtomach to a wretched condition, the outer membranes inflamed, the inner ones ulcerated and corrupted.

I will carry on a calculation on the foundation of Mr. Moore's, and ſuppoſe that if in the time of the Spaniſh Armada, there were 50,000 ſerviceable horſes in the kingdom; and that there are now * 150,000 working

* I have not attempted nicety of calculation; if there be any thing ſolid in the reaſoning, the facts are ſo clear that thoſe who run may read.—I muſt be greatly under the mark reſpecting the number of horſes;—for it is calculated that there grows annually in England at leaſt 4,240,947 quarters of oats, which with thoſe imported, (without mentioning beans and other things) will feed 300,000 horſes; allowing one third of the oats to be uſed for other purpoſes. And there are vaſt numbers of horſes that eat little or no corn.

horſes,

horſes, admitting that theſe will laſt on an average ſix years; to keep up the number, an annual recruit will be required of 25,000, to ſupply which a breeding ſtock of 208,333⅓ muſt be kept; theſe added together, make the number of horſes young and old in the kingdom, 358,333⅓, allowing three acres each on an average, they conſume the produce of 1,075,000 acres of arable and graſs land.

I have no doubt, in caſe an improvement ſhould take place, but from the ſuperiority in the horſes, and a regulation among wheel carriages, farmers implements, &c. that the ſame, or at leaſt the neceſſary work may be done by 100,000 horſes, and theſe to laſt on an average ten years, the annual recruit for which will be 10,000, to ſupply which, a breeding ſtock muſt be kept of 83,333⅓, which added to

the working ſtock makes 183,333$\frac{1}{3}$; conſuming the produce of three acres of land each, is 550,000 acres of land; hence ariſes a ſaving of 525,000 acres of cultivated and meadow land; ---without making any allowance for the improved Poney and Galloway, which I expect, however, to be the moſt indefatigable part of the ſupply; —ſuppoſing the breeding ſtock of them to be 40,000, we ſhall annually have 4,800 at market, and my hopes of them are ſo very ſanguine, that in ſix or ſeven years, I expect they will be powerful enough to do the hackney chaiſe work, the fatigues of which their ſturdineſs will enable them to ſupport, much better than horſes can do, who have been uſed to habits of care and lazineſs, as is the caſe with the major part of thoſe now bought for poſt chaiſes; where they are whipped up, as the phraſe is, in a manner

that

that would ſhock the humanity of a Tartar, fierce and cruel as he is.

While we are effecting this important ſaving of 525,000 acres of land, it is devoutly to be wiſhed we may overcome the invincible obſtinacy of farmers, reſpecting their carriages and implements as I hinted before; a ſaving of *half* the horſes which many of them keep, might be made; in ſome parts of Norfolk, Suffolk, and Eſſex, they plough with two horſes and no driver, in moſt other parts of the kingdom, even in the neighbouring counties, they will be found at the ſame work with four and five horſes drawing at length, and two men; their waggons, carts, &c. &c. are equally ill conſtructed.

I conſider it to be a reflection on the more intelligent ſort of farmer, the

 land-holder,

land-holder, and even on the Parliament itſelf, that an improved cultivation, effected by very ſimple regulations and implements, which has enriched the induſtrious Flemings, ſhould have made very little progreſs among us, notwithſtanding we have been writing and cogitating about it and about it, till the ſubject is almoſt rendered ridiculous.—One public experiment on a liberal ſcale, conducted with ability, and reported faithfully, would long ago have enabled us at leaſt to have imitated ſucceſsfully, if not to have improved on plans ſimple in themſelves, and which have been practiſed with ſo much ſucceſs in Flanders;—and if we conſider what is done by a drill ſerjeant, or Birmingham manufacturer, on raw country lads in a very little time, we muſt treat with contempt the idea, that clowniſh awkwardneſs, and even clowniſh obſtinacy,

may

may not be overcome by a proper diſtribution of trifling rewards and puniſhments (for the beſt reaſon a farmer ever gives for not copying any thing he ſees clearly demonſtrative to be beneficial, is, that he cannot get his ſervants to do it) if Gentlemen of landed property would put their ſhoulders in earneſt to the work.

It muſt be ſufficiently evident to the commoneſt underſtanding, that cultivating grain in rows, inſtead of broadcaſt, is replete with advantages. —The annual growth of corn in England is,

Wheat	-	4,046,603
Barley	-	4,603,272
Oats	-	4,240,947
Rye	-	1,063,652
		13,954,474 Qrs.

One-tenth part of which, or 1,395,447 Quarters

Quarters, is ſuppoſed to be uſed for ſeed. I am inclined to think the author of Tracts on the Corn Trade is much under the fact in this reſpect. The author of Political Eſſays, who ſeems to have weighed very carefully the opinions of other calculators, ſtates the annual crop of wheat at 1600000 acres, and other grain in proportion, which will be one-third more than what is juſt ſtated.

Great Britain and Ireland conſiſts of 112500 ſquare miles, or 72000000 acres; and England being three-fifths of the whole, of courſe contains 43,200,000 acres of land, a quantity that leads me to credit the latter eſtimate, in which caſe the corn annually uſed for ſeed is worth *upwards of two millions and a half ſterling*.

Mr. Ducket's plan of cultivating in rows is the beſt I ever ſaw; he ſaves about

about one-third of the ſeed uſed in the old way; his cleanſing inſtrument is exceedingly cheap and ſimple, performing two or three ſowings at as little expence as the farce of one weeding in broad-caſt coſts; it utterly exterminates the weeds from nine-tenths of the land, by which means the plants are too ſtrong to be felled by wind or rain, which in the old-faſhioned way ſo frequently happens to the extreme injury of the crop. The grain on this account ripens all together, which is a wonderful advantage; is more abundant, clearer, evener, and heavier; the land from this triumph over the weeds, is left in high tilth, ſo that, that diſcouraging, expenſive, and herculean labour of the huſbandman, cleaning foul land, is thus brought into a much narrower compaſs.

Notwithſtanding Mr. Ducket has prac-

practiſed his plan very ſucceſsfully for ſeveral years at Peterſham in Surry, it is a diſgrace to his vicinity he has been very little copied.

But though the ſeed thus ſaved, and the attendant benefits would be very conſiderable and important, the following experiment will prove that the ſaving of ſeed may be carried much further, at the ſame time that the practice here marked out would operate very ſtrongly in favour of induſtry and population, thoſe true ſources of national wealth and power.

Mr. Chetwood, from whom a friend procured me a particular account of which the following is the ſubſtance:

In March, 1774, at his farm at Lewiſham in Kent, obſerved a field of wheat ſown much too thick, it ſuggeſted a thought that ſome of the

roots

roots might be taken up, with advantage: He therefore ordered a man, with a three pronged hop ſpeed to take up the roots and ſhake off the earth. From one acre of a field of eight he took up ſufficient to plant two acres in an adjoining field, which had produced wheat in 1773, and afterwards was ſown with turnips to clean it for hops; theſe two acres he plowed and harrowed, then with a ſmall plough run parallel furrows four or five inches deep and two foot apart to receive the plants at about five inches aſunder. The earth was drawn up to the roots with a hoe:—Snow and froſt came in, which injured the roots much. In a week after planting, the plants appeared dead, for the ſnow went ſuddenly off, and pinching mornings, froſts and drought ſucceeded and continued: Here the country ridicule, which had diſcouraged the men at their work in the beginning,

beginning, was revived.—In a fortnight, Mr. Chetwood (who was unfortunately confined with the gout when the buſineſs was done) took a view, and on drawing up ſome of the plants, found that the earth, which was of the clay kind, and had adhered to the roots, had, by the care of the women who were employed to ſeparate the roots at the time of planting, been rolled up between their fingers as hard as a brick.—Upon this appearance, giving up the wheat, he planted his hops in the intervals, and comforted himſelf, that he had loſt nothing but the labour. The drought continued ten weeks, and the plants totally diſappeared.

In June a few ſhowers fell, and a moſt beautiful and regular verdure adorned the whole ground, *not a plant miſſed*, he then had it hoed and the earth

earth drawn up to the plants, and the ſpindles ſtruck amazingly ſtrong.—By obſerving the field carefully, it appeared that not more than two ſhoots had ſprung from any one root. All July was very dry. In the beginning of Auguſt rain fell plentifully, and from every root thirty and forty freſh ſtalks ſprung, very ſtrong, but they never eared, as they roſe ſo late and near the time of reaping.

When reaped it produced nearly two quarters an acre, extraordinary large and fair grain, no ear leſs than ſeventy, in moſt ninety and ninety-ſix, of amazing weight.—After reaping, a plough turned the roots out of the ground, when it appeared, that the balls of clay had been ſo hard rolled up by the women's hands, that they had never ſuffered the fibres to ſtrike

out

out, except a few at the bottom, which was the moiſteſt part.

Thus the egregious blunder of the women ruined this experimental crop of wheat, which otherways, notwithſtanding ſuch very unfavourable ſeaſons, would moſt probably have ſurpaſſed every thing of the kind, conſidering that from two ſtalks out of forty, the produce was nearly two quarters; the ears were ſo remarkable, ſeventy, ninety, and ninety-ſix corns, inſtead of thirty-five, that the neighbours preſerved them as curioſities.—And Mr. Chetwood ſaved a hundred, each ſix or eight inches long, many ſix ſet, inſtead of four, to ſend to the ſociety of arts, but his ſervants ſuffered his fowls to deſtroy them.

The acre from whence the plants were taken produced double the quantity

tity of wheat either of the other ſeven did; which is a ſingular evidence of the wiſdom and efficacy of the doctrine of the parable, "to dig about it."—and ſhould be a leſſon to conſtruct the cleanſing inſtrument, ſo that it may go deep enough in the center to give the roots a ſhake, and looſen the earth about them, as muſt have been the caſe in the operation of the hop ſpeed.--A peck of wheat ſown on a rod of land in September, will be ſufficient to plant *four acres*. The viciſſitudes of the winter, and the expence of trenching, is thus ſaved, and it gives an opportunity for a crop of cabbages, the profits and benefits of which ſo few of our farmers, to their ſhame, know any thing about.

I am, however, fully perſuaded that planting or ſetting would be leſs expenſive, and far more eaſily introduced into

into general practice than tranſplanting, as it certainly is a more ſimple and plain operation.----If an inſtrument were conſtructed to job the holes (and every inſtrument of this kind would ſoon be brought to perfection, if a little of the attention and ingenuity which is laviſhed on ſuch baubles as compoſe Cox's Muſeum met with encouragement in this uſeful channel) women and children would drop the grains into them at a moderate expence;---our moſt Gracious Sovereign, ever attentive to the welfare and happineſs of his people, ſome years ago, procured a ſmall quantity of Siberean wheat, which Mr. Ducket and others have found to be of an excellent ſort, and which it is not neceſſary to ſow till ſpring, ſo that the advantage of a crop of cabbages, and in ſome caſes, parſnips, that has been juſt mentioned as attendant on tranſplanting, may alſo

be had by means of this Siberian wheat, in the practice of planting or ſetting.

Bean ſetting coſts from three to four ſhillings per acre; it is the ridiculous practice of ſome counties to pay according to the quantity of beans uſed; for inſtance, a ſhilling or ſixteen-pence a buſhel; ſo that in order to uſe about three buſhels an acre, they will crowd half a dozen, or half a ſcore into a hole, inſtead of one, which is far better than more: Granting therefore the holes to be jobbed at a trifling expence, to drop the ſeed into them, could not coſt half ſo much as ſetting beans.—Mr. Chetwood's plants occupied near a foot of land each; but leaſt this ſhould in general be thought too much, I will allow nine inches only to each plant, and ſet in rows at eighteen inches diſtance, and the plants

in the rows at four inches and a half. —There is 19360 times nine inches in an acre; and I found, on counting, 5065 grains in half a pint of wheat: —allowing, in compliance with vulgar prejudice, four corns to one hole, tho', as I ſaid before, one would be ſufficient, half a peck of wheat will, upon this plan, plant an acre, inſtead of three buſhels and an half, the average quantity ſown in broad-caſt throughout the kingdom, which is a ſaving of twenty-ſeven parts out of twenty-eight, upon a ſum of Two MILLIONS AND A HALF. Admitting the poſſibility of ſaving only four parts in five, or Two Millions, it is a conſideration ſo very ſtricking, and ſo exceeding important, that if farmers and landlords are not to be awakened to their intereſts by the voice of common ſenſe, and the cleareſt and moſt demonſtrable facts—the legiſlature ſhould by

a bounty ſet the thing a going: a bounty of half-a-crown for every acre of land ſet or tranſplanted, would, in compariſon to the beneficial conſequences it would work, be as a drop of water in the ocean.

The cuſtom of uſing oxen in the buſineſs of huſbandry, has of late almoſt totally given place to the ſuperior handineſs of horſes; to which, and to the inveterate obſtinacy of ſervants, and his own indolence, the farmer has ſacrificed his intereſt and the public good; they ſhould be called back by a law to this wholeſome old cuſtom. Suppoſe, for inſtance, a tax of five or ten pounds per annum on ſuch as farm or rent 100l. per annum, or 200 acres of land, and do not keep and work a yoke of oxen; this tax collected by the pariſh, and its produce to go towards bounties for ſetting or tranſplanting

wheat, would operate in favour of two important objects at the ſame time, and the little farmer, who is generally ſtruggling with difficulties and entitled to all lenity, being thus exonerated from the tax, there would be no real hardſhip in it or room for grumbling, as the very perſons deſcribed to pay it, may get rid of the burthen by ſetting their wheat.

There are 9913 pariſhes in England, ſuppoſing but one farmer in each pariſh either to plant his wheat or adopt the uſe of oxen inſtead of horſes, and that all the reſt pay the tax to go among ſuch as may chuſe to go a little out of the old jog-trot obſtinate road; this will be very ſufficient for examples.

I ſhall hope for the gradual extermination of that aukward inanimate brute, a mere cart horſe, or as Dr. Johnſon

Johnſon in his dictionary defines him, "a coarſe unweildy horſe," having ſeen in abundant inſtances that a ſtrong hunter actually equals them in ſteadineſs of * draft; the qualities of ſtrength, temper and courage which fit a fine horſe to carry ſeventeen or eighteen ſtone a fox hunting, enable them, when unfit for that purpoſe, to beat and wear out theſe dull beaſts in their own way;—there are a *few* mares to be found, the ſelect of the cart breed, that on the plan of the prime of our dragoon horſes have a little action, which if covered by a well choſen high bred ſtrong horſe, would I am perſwaded produce better cart horſes, that would alſo be fit for active purpoſes; and the next croſs would be the gene-

* Oſmer ſays, "The late Duke of Bolton's horſes were in general victorious on the turf, maſters of any weight in the chaſe, and fitter for coaches too than any other horſes I ever ſaw."

rally uſeful animal to be wiſhed for;—a hunter, coach, cart, or military horſe.

One point of national ſecurity will ariſe out of the unbounded rage for keeping horſes, which in every other reſpect is to be deplored as a calamity. Should an enterprizing French miniſter in future adopt a plan ſimilar to that towards the end of laſt war, to invade theſe kingdoms, and take us upon a ſettled Eaſterly wind—our docks might be in imminent danger, the capital would tremble; and there is a great deal in this apprehenſion, but in ſuch caſe, granting us an early victory, it would be a poor recompence for the convulſion ſuch an attack would occaſion. If the poſſibility of effecting the improvements I have pointed out be admitted, the catalogue of feeble crippled nags, as well as the aukward rotundity

rundity of London draft horſes, will ſoon be changed for cattle *in general* efficient to military purpoſes; ſixty thouſand of theſe in and about London would ſupply on an emergency a numerous cavalry and a deſperate artillery, on which we may reſt ſecure.

Elliot's regiment, that exhibited a ſcene of valour and agility at Emſdorf which charmed and aſtoniſhed all Europe, had very little training; their then gallant Lieutenant Colonel, the Earl of Pembroke (who wrote an excellent treatiſe on the management of cavalry) is, I am told, exceedingly vigilant in forming the regiment of dragoons he now commands, to as much action, as the price given for army horſes and the ſcarcity of fine ones will admit.

The

The King of † Pruſſia felt very critically the great importance of a numerous and well appointed cavalry, when environed in the year 1757 by three armies, each ſufficiently numerous to cruſh him; he rendered his victory over the French and imperialiſts at Roxbach, the fifth of November, ſo compleat *by means of his cavalry*, as to be able to detach the greateſt part of them, and an equal number of infantry; his plan was to ride and tye, by which means he performed a wonderful march of 200 miles at that inclement ſeaſon of the year, joined his army in Sileſia, and on the fifth of December gained a victory over the Auſtrians, which ſecured his crown as

† The King of Pruſſia, his Generals and Aid de Camps, always ride Engliſh horſes, which coſt him enormous prices;—what a teſtimonial this of their ſuperiority, for he could at a moderate expence, get Turkiſh ones.

well

well as the applauſe of the whole world, and the admiration of future times.

The degeneracy of our breed of horſes was agitated in parliament in the year 1740;—when it was thought the practice of racing tended to diminiſh their ſize, and an act was paſſed for "the encouragement of the breed of ſtrong and uſeful horſes," which, among other things, enacted, that no horſe, mare, or gelding, ſhould in future run for any plate or match, carrying leſs weight than,

Ten Stone, if five years old.
Eleven Stone - ſix years old.
Twelve Stone - ſeven years old.

Under a penalty of two hundred pounds and forfeiture of the horſe.—The too great ſeverity of this law, which muſt

muſt have been almoſt a prohibition of racing, to which moſt probably may be added, the influence of His Royal Highneſs the late Duke of Cumberland, who was very much attached to the turf, produced a repeal of this otherways ſalutary ſtatute about the year 1746; and the land has ſince been deluged without ſtint or controul with deſpicable rips, juſtly anathamatized as locuſts.

If we were to recur to the ſame meaſure with a little leſs violence and ſome additions, it would greatly aſſiſt in the reformations ſo much to be wiſhed for.

Suppoſe a tax of two or five pounds on colts of

Four years old, carrying leſs weight than nine ſtone.
Five years old, - ten ſtone.
Six years old, - ten ſtone and a half,
Seven years old - eleven ſtone.

Five

Five pounds for colts that run before they are three years old, and two pounds for colts that run before they are four years old.

Ten pounds on each gelding.

Twenty pounds each mare.

Thirty pounds each ſtonehorſe that ſhall be exported.

Five pounds additional on four-wheel carriages.

Twenty pounds on each of thoſe oſtentatious carriages, vis-a-vis, or phaetons, drawn by four or more horſes.

Exemption from tax and turnpike for the beſt ſubſtitute for a poſt-chaiſe to be drawn by one horſe, and run at or under four-pence a mile, and alſo for the beſt ſubſtitute for a ſtage coach, carrying a great number of perſons; theſe exemptions are abſolutely neceſſary, for though extravagant and trifling, travellers cannot be taxed too high;

high; it would be exceedingly impolitic to add expence to the manufacturer or perſons who travel on buſineſs, and chuſe to be œconomiſts—Carriages of pleaſure are increaſing ſo faſt, that in all reſpects they are a very great nuiſance; in town it is dangerous for infirm perſons to croſs the ſtreets about their buſineſs, and if phætons-and-four continue to grow faſhionable, the road alſo will become dangerous.

The exceſſive increaſe in carriages of pleaſure carries with it more extenſive and pernicious conſequences than the obſerver at the firſt view will be aware of.

The very expence of keeping a carriage is frequent ruin; very many are drawn inſenſibly from their uſual and neceſſary aſſiduity in buſineſs into habits of expence and diſſipation, which,

alas!

alas! ſo generally ends in inſolvency and wretchedneſs; it ſets women a gadding, to the neglect of the ſocial and domeſtic duties; to theſe and other reaſons ſo frequently and ſo ineffectually urged, it muſt be acknowledged that it tends to ſoften and enervate our men; that the robuſt and warlike character of our anceſtors, to which we are indebted for our religion, and our admired and happy conſtitution, is poſitively in danger of being loſt;—this conſideration ſhould rouſe adminiſtration to ſuch meaſures as may at leaſt check the progreſs of an evil that threatens us with the loſs of every thing that is dear and valuable; but while we are attempting to ſtop the contagion of effeminacy by forcing men from their indulgence in carriages, it would be very unwiſe to lay any conſtraint on the uſe of the ſaddle horſe, leaſt (which heaven avert) it involve us in a fate

ſimilar

ſimilar to that of the Lydians, whoſe King Cræſus was conquered by Cyrus, who granted him favourable terms; but when Cyrus, ſome time after was engaged in other wars, the Lydians revolted; but being a ſecond time defeated, the victor took a very ſummary method to extinguiſh effectually every ſpark of their ancient gallantry, and hold them up to mankind as miſerable inſtances of depravity.

He took from them their armes and HORSES, and ordered them to erect taverns, gaming-houſes and ſtews;— Thus that people who before were remarkable for their induſtry, and were invincible in war, became the victims of intemperance, effeminacy and lazineſs.

We have enough of taverns, of gaming-houſes, and of ſtews; let us not

not voluntarily adopt *every* meaſure that can be invented to precipitate the worſt, the moſt irretrievable, and the moſt humiliating ruin; let us therefore from our young men at leaſt wreſt their carriage, and thus compel them to move from place to place as their virtuous forefathers did, *on horſeback*; and leaſt their ſilks and ſattins, and other the various elegancies of their dreſs ſhould be ſpoiled by the weather, or by the encreaſed activity of the wearers, let theſe be given back to the ladies, from whom they have been borrowed, and in return for this piece of juſtice, it cannot be doubted but our beautiful females will excuſe the men for appearing before them arrayed as heretofore in the *ſtaple manufactures of the kingdom*, for which condeſcenſion they will have very ample and ſatisfactory rewards in the vigorous conſtitutions and unexhauſted

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unexhauſted parts, which will be at their ſervice.

The preſent times are ſuch as call, in a moſt particular manner, for ſuch meaſures as may tend to maintain and increaſe the internal centrical ſtrength of the Empire.

Upon a cloſe and candid examination it will moſt certainly be found, that this country has for centuries paſt wandered from its true intereſt; that it has been too anxious after remote territories and far diſtant conqueſts; but, however theſe meaſures might be juſtified by glittering and ſeductious appearances in former times, we have now, more certain rules for the regulation of our conduct, and the reſult of recent experience, is fully ſufficient to convince us, that we cannot depend on flouriſhing and healthy colonies on the other

other ſide of the Atlantic; and that Aſiatic acquiſitions are a conſtant and very enormous drain of men; in return for which, we import a catalogue of luxuries, and a train of corrupt and effeminate habits, cuſtoms, and perſonages, that in the event will, it is to be feared, bring on evils of the moſt deſtructive tendency.

It is high time, therefore, that theſe deluſive and unſubſtantial ſyſtems of policy, by which we have been ſo long and ſo fatally miſled, ſhould give place gradually, and as circumſtances may ariſe, to thoſe interior objects, over which we can have a conſtant and watchful eye; and, in compariſon with diſtant poſſeſſions, a ſteady controul; and which, as they are the peculiar gifts of the Almighty to our inſular ſituation, the nature of our climate, and the hardy and laborious conſtitu-

tion of our people, it is a matter of no ſmall aſtoniſhment, that they have been ſo long neglected.

An improved cultivation, THE FIRST GREAT OBJECT, would not only do away that unclean thing the importation of corn, which is an annual drain of caſh, little ſhort of a million and a half ſterling ;—but granting the ſaving of 525,000 acres of cultivated land by reformations reſpecting horſes, and a ſmall proportion of the corn uſed for ſeed, which has been contended for ; it may ſafely be predicted, that an exportation of double the amount would very ſoon take place ;—nay, the advantages that will accompany the ſucceſsful extenſion of agriculture, are unbounded.

This only can repair the ravages of our intercourſe with hot and unhealthy

unhealthy climates, the diſcouragements of matrimony, and the numerous emigrations from theſe kingdoms, have occaſioned in our population; and from this ſource we alſo may juſtly expect, that our population may not only be reſtored, but ſo far extended, as to be an indemnification for any loſs of diſtant territories that can be apprehended.

The want of attention to our fiſheries is one of thoſe inſcrutable things into which the more we enquire, the leſs we ſhall be able to comprehend what motive or excuſe there can be for the neglect of them; the herring fiſhery alone offers us ſuch abundant advantages, as a naval and commercial people, as would place us out of the reach of any competition in theſe reſpects; but though theſe inexhauſtable treaſures offer themſelves on our coaſts, and

tempt us to take them in our *very harbours*; aſtoniſhing faſcination! we take very little notice of them.

Our rivals in trade the Dutch, in this reſpect far wiſer than we, avail themſelves of our infatuation, and look to the herring fiſhery as to their titular ſaint; their fiſhermen ſail *for our coaſts* each ſeaſon under the eye, and receive perſonally the benedictions, of their Prince; they employ all their invention in rewards and encouragements to ſtimulate and enliven their people in every ſtage of this great buſineſs, and are in the event amply rewarded for their induſtry and ſagacity.—The herring fiſhery was the corner ſtone of their greatneſs, and is the ſupport of their power. The ſailors, on board the buſſes which catch them, have encreaſed from 15 to 30,000 men; the number of hands employed on ſhore is aſtoniſhing,

aſtoniſhing, and the ſhipping, which tranſport them to foreign markets, cover the European ſeas with their canvas, and croud every harbour from the Northern regions of the Baltic and Norway to the Archipelagon ſea; indeed, ſo great and extenſive is the demand, that calculators have carried the annual profits of this fiſhery to the Dutch, as far as ſix millions ſterling.

In theſe various countries people of all ranks eat fiſh very frequently, and yet we have a poor rate which is a diſgrace to our police, an intolerable load on induſtry, agriculture, and commerce; and are told our poor will not, we are certain they do not, eat fiſh, though they might be fed on them for a penny a day; and in Holland and the North, they hail the firſt freight of herrings as the harbingers of health, and conſider them as dainties.

The

The enlightened Rawleigh recommended the fiſheries as the means to render and fix our navy triumphant; and that great ſea officer, Lord Anſon, patronized, in the warmeſt manner, the ſcheme of the free Britiſh fiſhery on the ſame laudable and public ſpirited plan; the nation, from a thorough conviction of its utility and wiſdom, entered into, and ſubſcribed to, it with their uſual alacrity and generoſity;—but, alas! this ſcheme, founded on the trueſt principle for the ſupport of the national dignity, wealth, and happineſs, was, in conſequence of a debility and wantonneſs in the execution of it not to be accounted for or excuſed, and which would have diſgraced the moſt juvenile form at Weſtminſter ſchool, totally overſet and brought into diſgrace; the ample funds, that were provided to carry it on, were fooliſhly ſquandered, and to the eternal infamy

of

of the conductors of it, the matter ended in ruin, execration, and ridicule, to the extreme mortification of the noble promoter of it, and the conſiderate part of the nation.

The diſaſterous termination of this undertaking is, however, no argument againſt the merits of the caſe, and will not, let us hope, prevent future efforts to carry it into execution, with a ſucceſs equal to its capability and importance.

Ignorance, peculation, and negligence, will certainly ruin the beſt concerted projects, which we ſee clearly evinced, in the many ſets of men that have been undone by attempting the Newfoundland fiſhery; at the very time that the well directed and unwearied application of the people of Pool have been exceedingly ſucceſsful; inſomuch that Pool employs at this time,

time, upwards of three hundred ſail of ſhipping, and is, in conſequence of its induſtry and frugality, daily increaſing in wealth in the number and reſpectability of its inhabitants, and the eſtimation of mankind.

We have other fiſheries that languiſh for want of a proper attention and ſupport, but I forbear to enlarge on the ſubject, upon which, however, we cannot reflect without feeling a very great degree of ſatisfaction, nay even of exultation, conſidering that in the vigorous proſecution of the buſineſs of agriculture and the fiſheries (to us the peculiar gifts of Heaven) we ſhall find abundant reſources againſt any accident or defection that can be apprehended in the diſtant parts of this far extended empire.—The huſbandman, and the fiſherman, cannot flouriſh to any

any great degree, without affording very conſiderable aid to the great ſtaple manufacture of the kingdom, in which we have been of late years ſo totally eclipſed by the French. The woollen trade, which recently gave life and vigour to ſo many trading towns, and ſuch an infinite number of hands; which filled the coffers of London with Portugal and Spaniſh gold and ſilver, and which alſo uſed to lay the Levant and Aſiatic markets under contribution to this country, is now nearly monopolized by our rivals, in conſequence of the cheapneſs of proviſions and labour, and the ingenuity of the artizans of France, who have fabricated a ſlight and cheap cloth, adapted in all reſpects to the climates for which it is intended.

It muſt excite both our wonder and regret, that in ſpite of the very ſevere laws

laws that remain in force againſt ſmuggling of wool, and the glaring impolicy of it, which forty years ago would have occaſioned univerſal clamours; that the French nation, who, *without the aſſiſtance of our wool*, could not make cloth for their own inhabitants, ſhould now ſmuggle from England and Ireland 285,000 * packs per annum, by means of which they are enabled to employ 3,240,000 perſons in the manufacture, whoſe labour only amounts to 20,724,675l. ſterling per annum, and by this means are enabled to circumvent the ſubjects of Great-Britain in this great and material article at all thoſe marts, at which, a little time ago, they had no competitors.

Happy would it be for theſe kingdoms, and great ſhould be the reward

* Political Eſſays.

of

of that miniſter or man, of whatever deſcription he may be, who ſhall be the leading and ſucceſsful inſtrument in recovering this invaluable branch of trade; which, however, I conceive can only be effected by an increaſed population, and a reduction in the price of proviſions and labour, which will be the natural and inevitable conſequences of an improved cultivation and the extenſion of agriculture.

I am conſcious of very many defects, irregularities, and errors in this performance, and of my utter inability to treat with ſufficient clearneſs and perſpicuity, the important ſubjects of which I have ſketched the outlines; if ſome able pen ſhould, from this rude attempt, be induced to do them juſtice, it will be ſome ſatisfaction that this has not been wrote in vain; and I will not doubt the candour and lenity of the

the reader, as I truſt it will be granted me, that theſe conſiderations have for their object, THE PUBLIC GOOD.

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